

Message Text

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71

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 DOTE-00 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 FAA-00 RSR-01 /041 W

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R 061940 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9343

INFO AMALASSXVMEXICO 1488

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 1624

E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRN, XM, OAS

SUBJECT: I- A HIGHWAY SPECIAL STUDY GROUP

REF: STATE 054034

1. EMBASSY DISCUSSED POINTS REFTEL WITH DIRECTOR GOG EXPORT DEVELOPMENT CENTER, WHO PROVIDED FOLLOWING INFORMATION. TRANSPORTATION: NO IMPROVEMENT HAS YET TAKEN PLACE. BUSES AND TRUCKS MAY NOT CROSS FRONTIER IN EITHER DIRECTION. TRANSFER OF CARGO AND PASSENGERS MUST TAKE PLACE AT THE FRONTIER. CUSTOMS FACILITIES: MEXICO HAS PROMISED TO CONSTRUCT CUSTOMS FACILITIES AT BORDER POINTS AND IS NOT REQUIRING GUATEMALANS TO SHOW \$100 IN CASH IN ORDER TO ENTER MEXICO AS VISITOR. MOVEMENT OF PERSONS: GUATEMALANS CAN NOW OBTAIN FROM MEXICAN BORDER AUTHORITIES DOCUMENT VALID FOR SIX MONTHS PERMITTING MULTIPLE ENTRY INTO MEXICO. TOURISM: DEVELOPMENT OF " RUTA MAYA" REPORTEDLY WILL RECEIVE TOP PRIORITY IN GOM, WHICH WILL COOPERATE CLOSELY WITH GUATEMALAN TOURIST AUTHORITIES IN BRINGING THIS ABOUT.

2. GUATEMALA TOURISM DIRECTOR ADVISES THAT THREE TOURISM FACILITIES AT MEXICAN BORDER HAVE BEEN REMODELED AND ARE NOW STAFFED FOR RAPID PROCESSING OF INCOMING TOURISTS FROM MEXICO. ALL INCOMING TOURISTS WILL SOON BE CHARGED ONE DOLLAR INSTEAD OF THREE FOR TOURIST CARDS. TOURISTS DEPARTING GUATEMALA BY HIGHWAY WILL PAY EXIT TAX OF ONE DOLLAR AND THOSE DEPARTING BY AIR THREE

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DOLLARS. THIS REVENUE WILL BE USED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF GUATEMALAN TOURISM FACILITIES AND PROMOTION. TOURISM DIRECTOR IS NOW DRAFTING BORDER AND ENTRY CLEARANCE FORMS THAT WILL FACILITATE PROCESSING AT ALL HIGHWAY POINTS OF ENTRY. TO ACCELERATE DEVELOPMENT OF "RUTA MAYA", THE AIRPORT AT FLORES, PETEN, IS PROGRAMMED TO BE ENLARGED AND BECOME INTERNATIONAL, LINKING YUCATAN WITH GUATEMALA.
BOWDLER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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